The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service covers economic and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and federal fields and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1895 WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1947 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 37, NO. 31

LABOR'S GOAL To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

RENT CONTROL LAW

Washington, D. C.—The following is an explanation of the new Federal rent control law and its effect upon tenants. The analysis was prepared by the AFL's Housing Committee:

The new rent-control measure called the Housing and Rent Act of 1947 is a bad law. It fails to give tenants adequate protection. It allows "voluntary" rent increases up to 15 percent over the present rent ceiling. It removes federal safeguards over evictions. It completely does away with rent control on some types of housing.

But it is a law now. Every tenant should know how to secure maximum protection under the new rent law. Here are its important provisions.

15 Percent Increase

If you refuse to sign a new lease, your rent cannot be increased until March 1, 1948. The law permits up to a 15 percent rent increase above your present maximum rent if all the following conditions are met:

1. If the landlord and tenant voluntarily sign a written lease.

You are not required to sign a lease for an increased rent. Until February 29, 1948, while the law remains in effect, your landlord cannot evict you for not signing. Moreover, the landlord cannot reduce the essential services he has been supplying to you.

If you decide not to sign, your present rent ceiling will remain in effect until March 1, 1948. If your landlord tries to force you to sign a lease, talk with the people at your area rent office. They are there to protect you.

If you decide to sign a lease, read the lease very carefully. If you have questions about the conditions your landlord has written into the lease, before you sign it, take the lease to the area rent office and discuss it with rent officials there. Remember, you are not required to sign a lease. If you do sign one, the increase does not have to be for the full 15 percent. It may be for less.

2. If the lease is executed on or before December 31, 1947, and extends through December 31, 1948.

Without a lease, the landlord cannot demand an increase above your present rent ceiling until the Rent Act terminates on February 29, 1948. After that there will be no controls on your rent, unless Congress extends the Rent Act or your state or city has enacted its own rent control law. The law says that if you sign a lease for an increased rent the lease must extend at least through December 31, 1948. It may go beyond that date, but if you sign a lease for an increased rent, it must expire "concurrently" as of December 31, 1947. This means that you can no longer appeal to the area rent office. You can seek protection only in the courts, and only on the old terms of the lease.

3. If the signed lease is filed by the landlord with the area rent office within 15 days after the date on which it was executed.

You are not required to go to any rent office in which you have agreed in your signed lease until it has been approved by the area rent office. The executed lease must be filed with and approved by the area rent office before it can go into effect. The area rent office will send you a copy of the registration card which the landlord files.

4. If the lease does not reduce the essential services, furnishings or equipment that your landlord has had to furnish you under the former regulations.

The area rent office will not approve a lease that reduces these items and decreases the services to which you have been entitled. You should make sure that your lease provides for at least the same services. Be sure that agreement to provide the same services is written into your lease. Otherwise it may take considerable time and negotiation before services are returned. Do not depend on oral promises.

5. If the lease does not contain an escalator clause which provides for a further rent increase after December 31, 1948.

If you decide to sign a lease for an increase up to 15 percent over your present maximum, the lease must extend through December 31, 1948. It may be for a longer period. But no lease will be approved by the area rent office if it requires an additional increase after December 31, 1948.

6. If the lease does not give the landlord the right to terminate it before its expiration date.

The lease may give the tenant the option to terminate it before it expires, but the lease cannot give such an option to the landlord.

Every one of these six conditions must be met if the lease is to be approved by the area rent office. If any of them are violated you are not obligated to pay an increase even if you have signed a new lease. But, remember . . . the new law does not require you to pay an increase. It must be a voluntary agreement between you and the landlord. If you do sign a lease providing for an increase up to 15 percent, the increase you agree to cannot be raised further during the first year. The 15 percent is the absolute maximum increase for housing still under control. Even the area rent office cannot approve more.

Eviction of Tenants

Under the federal law, the landlord who wants to get you out of the dwelling is still required to go to court and prove he has a legal ground for eviction. However, he is no longer required to apply to the rent office for approval of an eviction action. You must rely on the local courts for protection. As long as your rent is paid, the following are the only grounds for eviction.

1. If the tenant violates the obligations of his tenancy under a local eviction law, so long as the provisions of the local eviction law are not in conflict with the federal law.

The landlord cannot evict you for refusing to sign a lease calling for an increase up to the maximum permitted under the new law. Nor can he raise a 15 percent increase or one which gives the landlord the right to terminate the lease, unless you refuse to accept a lease which conforms to the federal law, regardless of the provisions of the local law.

2. If the tenant is committing a nuisance on the premises, or is using them for immoral or illegal purposes, or for purposes other than living space.

Your local law says what actions are legally considered as "nuisances" in your community. If your landlord tries to evict you on these charges, he must go to court and prove them.

3. If the landlord, in good faith, wants to occupy the premises immediately for his own use as housing accommodations.

The landlord cannot evict you in order to have his relatives move into the dwelling. Neither can he evict you to convert the dwelling for commercial use. He and his immediate family must fully intend to live in the dwelling.

4. If the landlord, in good faith, has agreed in writing, to sell the premises to a purchaser for his immediate and personal housing use.

Just your landlord's statement that he has sold the dwelling is not enough. It must be a bona fide sale, and the purchaser must intend to use it for housing, not as a store or office.

5. If the landlord, in good faith, is going to remodel or alter the premises substantially.

You can be evicted for remodeling or altering only if:

a. the alterations are necessary to protect and conserve the housing accommodations, and

b. these alterations cannot be made with the tenants living on the premises, and

c. the landlord has complied with all local and federal laws for making such alterations.

Your landlord cannot evict you to remodel or alter your dwelling for commercial use.

6. If the landlord seeks in good faith to recover possession of your dwelling for the purpose of demolishing it and replacing it with new construction.

You have no protection against eviction in this case, regardless of the kind of new building he will construct. It may be for commercial use or for commercial building. The only restriction on the landlord is that he comply with all local and federal laws for such new construction.

7. If your premises are the spare room or some other portion of the landlord's own house, which is not suitable for housekeeping use.

If you are living in a furnished, non-housekeeping accommodation in a single dwelling occupied by your landlord and his family, or not used as a rooming or boarding house, the law permits the landlord to evict you.

Recovery of Damages by Tenants

If your landlord charges you more than you are legally bound to pay for rent, you can bring suit against him in any state or federal court within one year of his violation of the law. If your landlord reduces your services, regardless of whether or not you have signed a lease for increased rent, this is considered as raising your rent. You can bring court action against him for this.

In the case of a clear violation, you can sue the landlord for triple damages and court costs. You can also go to the area rent office and ask that it get a court order compelling the landlord to pay back the overcharge or restore the services to which you are entitled.

Housing Removed from Rent Control

Certain types of housing accommodations are no longer controlled under the new federal law. But rent control is removed from such housing only when the landlord files a special form with the area rent office proving that accommodations are eligible for removal from control. The units are basically decontrolled. The types of housing from which rent control is removed include:

Buy Union Products Says Labor Official

Washington, D. C.—John F. Burke, president, Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, urged promotion of a drive for the purchase of union-made goods by consumers.

Excerpts from Burke's statement, released by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department, follow:

"By promoting a drive for the purchase of union-made goods, let us start a counter-offensive against the Congressmen and Senators who are trying to enact anti-union shop legislation.

"If the more than seven million members of the American Federation of Labor, their families and their friends would make a solemn pledge to buy union-made goods only—and stick to this resolve—we could laugh at the efforts of some of our Senators and Congressmen who pass anti-labor legislation.

"It is consumers who furnish the markets for the products of American industry. Therefore, we spend our union wages we should spend it for products made by union men and women. Not a single dollar earned in a union shop should be spent for the purchase of products made in non-union shops."

AFL GROUP WINS ELECTION AT DRYDEN RUBBER CO.

Springfield, Ill.—Employes at the Dryden Rubber Company plant here voted for the AFL as collective bargaining agent. Results of the 4-way election were: AFL, 91 votes against 24 for the CIO.

The vote was the first conducted here, since enactment of the Taft-Hartley law.

A stiff campaign by AFL organizers eliminated the CIO affiliate from the election despite determined resistance. The successful AFL battle was directed by Secretary Dryden Company plant under AFL contract. An agreement has been reached between the AFL and the company's plant in Keokuk, Iowa.

KEEN JOHNSON RESIGNS FROM LABOR DEPT. POST

Washington, D. C.—Keen Johnson, Undersecretary of Labor, resigned from Government service.

He said he is going to President Truman that he was returning to private life.

Johnson, a vice-president of Reynolds Metals Company, served under the Labor Department while on a year's leave of absence from the Reynolds Company.

In reply, Mr. Truman said he was "indeed sorry that we are going to lose your services." He added that "your resignation is inclosed, and as I am personally."

The exchange of letters was made public by the White House.

COST OF LIVING IS TOPIC FOR AFL RADIO PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—The question, "How Can the Cost of Living Be Reduced?" will be discussed on the August 8th broadcast of the AFL weekly series of radio broadcasts over the nation-wide network of the American Broadcasting Co.

Participants in the discussion will include Paul E. Hutchinson, president, Office Employes' International Union; Lloyd Egan, secretary-treasurer, United Textile Workers of America, and Philip Pearl, AFL Publicity Director.

The program originates in Washington and will commence at 6.45 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time. Long papers should be consulted for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.

Boiler Makers Hold Educational Parley

Chicago.—President Charles J. MacGowan called the "education and organization" conference of the Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers of America held here on August 2nd. Delegates from the Labor or Master Lodges of the United States gathered to discuss problems raised by the union.

Dr. William M. Leiserson, labor relations expert, and Clyde Leggett, general counsel for the Boiler Makers, addressed the delegates and discussed practical methods of conducting lodge meetings and business.

Following the pre-war meeting the Executive Board met in session to map into small groups to discuss matters of policy. The Executive Board is industry in which the union has representation. These include the railroads, contract shops, shipyards and construction activities.

FIGHT PRICES AND ENEMIES SAYS AUTO WORKERS BOARD

Milwaukee, Wis.—The Executive Board of the AFL's United Automobile Workers meeting here voted for directing its locals to fight against high prices as a search for the defeat of all Congressmen who have demonstrated their "unfriendly attitudes toward labor."

The board recommended that all UAW locals work in every way possible with consumer cooperative groups to obtain their supply and form co-ops where they do not exist. Another board decision called for vigorous campaigns by local groups for the defeat of Congressmen who voted for the Taft-Hartley measure.

Meany Says No Labor Retreat Reiterates Plan To Fight Law

AFL's United Textile Workers Smash CIO Raids in Five New England Mills

Lawrence, Mass.—The strenuous efforts of the CIO to grab control of 14 New England mills under contract with the AFL's United Textile Workers were foiled by a vote of two to 1 in favor of the AFL affiliate.

About 18,000 workers participated in 5 elections at the Hudson Worsted Company, Hudson, Mass.; Shawsheen Mill of the American Woolen Company, Andover, Mass.; the Arlington Mill of William Whitman & Sons; the Voss-Harbor Mill of the American Woolen Company, North Vassalboro, Me., and the Sanford Spinning Unit of the American Woolen Company, Sanford, Me.

At the Arlington Mill, the largest of the plants, the UTW vote ran better than 2½ to 1 in favor of the AFL and at the Hudson plant it was as high as 5 to 1. The UTW now represents the grand total of about 15,000 textile mill workers in the Greater Lawrence, Mass., area.

The elections resulted from CIO raiding of plants under contract with the UTW and the CIO's petition to the National Labor Relations Board to decertify the plants. During all this year, 11 CIO raiding expeditions against the UTW have resulted in 11 CIO defeats.

Observers noted 2 important sidelights on these elections. The first, the vast number of non-voters—more than 8 out of 10—a startling total of votes cast. Secondly, in the Lawrence elections the workers at the Wood & Dyer Mills, which are CIO controlled, were very enthusiastic about the UTW victory parade which passed these mills the rounds of the windows and shouted "Russia."—AFL)"

Challenges Employers Who Seek to Destroy Trade Unions

Sacramento, Calif.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany declared vigorously that "labor has got going back to the conditions which existed prior to 1932" despite the Taft-Hartley law and the vicious intentions of all the supporters of the 80th Congress.

In an address before the convention of the California State Federation of Labor, Mr. Meany said the American Federation of Labor intends to continue to maintain its organization as an "effective instrument of the trade workers in their fight for a better life."

While indicating a desire to bargain in good faith with employers, Mr. Meany warned the reactionary management groups that:

"To those employers who feel the Taft-Hartley law is going to enable them to dictate at will the terms and conditions of employment with regard to the welfare and desires of their employees, we say that under industrial warfare—we accept the challenge."

The AFL leader reiterated the position taken by the entire Federation of Labor in announcing a campaign to have the unfortunate Taft-Hartley law.

"We intend to challenge in the courts every section of the Taft-Hartley act which we feel is unconstitutional and destructive of workers' rights.

"We intend to establish permanent machinery which will, by public polls, all those members of Congress who voted for the infamous Taft-Hartley Bill."

Without retreating from this strong stand on action to be taken, Mr. Meany cautioned against irresponsible conduct on the part of union leaders.

"Faced with a law that in itself has invitation to industrial discord and strife, we do ourselves and the law with a difficult situation that calls for the highest degree of statesmanship on the part of organized labor, if we are to serve our workers and bring to them the real benefits of trade union organization."

"Despite the Taft-Hartley Act, we must make a sincere effort to work with those employers who believe that production can only come through industrial peace," he declared.

A large part of Mr. Meany's address was devoted to an analysis of the difficult path labor will have to tread under the anti-labor Taft-Hartley law. Pointing to the real intent of the law, to weaken labor, Mr. Meany declared that he said that a weak trade union, with inadequate financial resources to its membership, is in the last analysis no union at all.

Mr. Meany labeled the Taft-Hartley law as one which will not contribute in the slightest degree to the establishment of industrial peace. In analyzing the difficult path labor will have to tread under the anti-labor Taft-Hartley law, Mr. Meany declared that he said that a weak trade union, with inadequate financial resources to its membership, is in the last analysis no union at all.

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Green Calls Marshall Plan 'Wise and Simple' Measure

Washington, D. C.—In an editorial appearing in this month's American Federationist, Editor William Green declares that the Marshall plan for European economic recovery is a "wise and simple way of enabling European nations to cope with their own problems."

"The proposal assumes the willingness of the various nations to work together and, however they may differ, to find a common ground to make progress," Mr. Green declared.

The AFL chief declared that the Marshall plan has thus far served to emphasize the gulf which separates democratic civilization from totalitarian regimes. He criticized Russia for her refusal to cooperate. He said:

"The U. S. S. R. refused to cooperate or to permit the nations of her control to cooperate. Russia has shown herself unwilling and thus unwilling to work together under democratic leadership. The world desperately needs and seeks peace, but it can have peace only when all are willing to place common welfare above special interests and the welfare of the human liberty. The purposes of the U. S. S. R. stand out with unmistakable clarity and it is well that wage-earners and all others understand and face the facts.

"All democratic nations are willing to respect the right of any people to have a totalitarian government if they wish. But totalitarianism is ill-advised—but a decision which a nation has a right to make. However, no nation has any right to impose this or any other form of government upon another nation.

"After the Communist Party got control of the Russian government, it set up the Comintern, or committee responsible for 'converting' other countries to communism. During the recent war the Comintern was officially abolished, but its members were assigned to various countries to direct Communist secret agents and the Communist Party members in the various countries.

"Those who value democratic institutions, including free enterprise, have responsibility for knowing how to safeguard and preserve this free way of life. Many of them are willing to make sacrifices to that end, but we must do our share in convincing the wage-earners of other countries of their value and their worth. If we would retain democracy, we must prepare ourselves to persuade others to share it."

Article Says Swedish Experience Key To Solution of Our Economic Problems

New York City.—Sweden is a land which has solved some of the problems which confront our national economy and to which we may turn for assistance and experience.

This is the view expressed by Arnold M. Zurcher, professor at the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes, in an article which is the first of a series of six on "Democratic Socialism: A Contrary in Economic Democracy." The articles were prepared for the AFL Weekly News Service and are being published by that organization.

"The U. S. A. is heading for trouble," Mr. Zurcher declares. "We must ask what, if anything, is being done in other democratic countries that is able to mention anything of sufficient consequence to offset the satisfactory sense of security. It seems to me that we are doing so. We are not taking positive steps to avoid the depression which the country is determined to do every wrong possible thing.

Calling for the right kind of political action, Mr. Zurcher declares: "We must meet to Congress, for the development of a system of workers' education, for concentration upon the economic aspects of the trade union movement, for cooperative movements, Mr. Zander made in Sweden and the entire country has met the same problems and has solved them satisfactorily. He says:

"Although we recognize the necessity for undertaking these tasks we should probably feel a little more sure of ourselves if we knew that in some other country similar steps were once taken and that they had proved themselves. We are hoping for some distant laboratory, problems which we have long since solved, it would give us assurance.

"Fortunately, such a laboratory is available in Sweden.

"Briefly, the Swedish program is about like this: They want a middle-of-the-road government and economy. They are not in favor of either fascism on either the right or the left. One of the important program items is an anti-communist campaign. He says they say this because they have secured themselves against fascism. Their economy is based upon a high degree of security. It seems to me that we are doing so. We are not taking positive steps to avoid the depression which the country is determined to do every wrong possible thing.

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FEWER STRIKES IN JUNE REPORTED BY LABOR DEPT.

Washington, D. C.—The number of strikes decreased in June for the first consecutive month, according to a Labor Department report.

The Department said that 350 new strikes by 475,000 workers during the month resulted in a loss of 4,750,000 man-days of idleness or the equivalent of 2.7 percent of available working time.

The Conciliation Service said that incomplete figures indicate that strike idleness in July was about the same.

The Commerce Department also stated that there were 2,172 strikes in the first half of 1947, 160 fewer than for the first half of 1946. However, this year's strikes involved fewer workers and cost only .3 of 1 percent days of idleness. The 2,338 strikes in the first half of 1946 caused 2.4 percent man-days of idleness.

NEW CALIF. WAGE ORDERS SET 65-CENT MINIMUM

Washington, D. C.—The State of California issued new minimum hourly wage orders, each of them setting an hourly minimum of 65 cents and each contains provisions relating to working conditions, safety, health, etc., according to a report issued by the U. S. Department of Labor's Wage Division.

Although court procedure might delay the enforcement of the orders, the California Division of Industrial Welfare has stated that the new orders are now in force.

WOMEN IN LABOR FORCE UP

Washington, D. C.—The number of women in the labor force increased over 1,000,000 between May and June, according to a report issued by the Labor Department.

The woman labor force totaled 18,150,000, the highest level reached since the end of June 1944.

HIRING DOWN, LAYOFFS UP IN MAY FOR MANUFACTURING

Washington, D. C.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that hiring rates in manufacturing industries decreased during May while layoff rates increased by a slightly quite declined in the period.

The hiring rate fell from 61 to 47 for every 1,000 employes on the payroll during May before the layoff rate rose 1946. Layoffs rose from 10 to 18 per 1,000 employes with the separation fell most sharply in the iron and steel, electrical, nonelectrical, and radio equipment industries.

Hiring rates for women in all manufacturing industries declined more sharply than for men.

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But it is a law now. Every tenant should know how to secure maximum protection under the new rent law. Here are its important provisions.

15 Percent Increase

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1. If you and the landlord and tenant voluntarily sign a written lease.

You are not required to sign a lease for an increased rent. Until February 29, 1948, while the law remains in effect, your landlord cannot evict you for not signing. Moreover, the landlord who wishes to collect the essential services he has been supplying to you.

If you decide not to sign, your present rent ceiling will remain in effect until March 1, 1948. If your landlord tries to force you to sign a lease, talk with the people at your area rent office. They are there to protect you.

If you decide to sign a lease, read the lease very carefully. If you have questions about the conditions your landlord has written into the lease, before you sign it, take the lease to the area rent office and discuss it with rent officials there. Remember, you are not required to sign a lease. If you do sign one, the increase cannot be more than 15 per cent. It may be far less.

2. If the lease is executed on or before December 31, 1947, and extends through December 31, 1948.

Without a lease, the landlord cannot demand an increase above your present rent ceiling until the Rent Act expires on February 29, 1948. After that there will be no controls on your rent, unless Congress extends the Rent Act or your state or city has enacted its own rent-control law. The law says that if you sign a lease for an increased rent the lease must extend at least through December 31, 1948. It may go beyond that date. If you do sign a lease for an increased rent, your increase cannot exceed the Rent Act per cent, 1947. This means that you can no longer appeal to the area rent office. You can seek protection only in the courts and only to enforce the terms of the lease.

3. If the signed lease is filed by the landlord with the area rent office within 15 days after the date on which it was executed.

You are not required to pay an increased rent to which you have agreed in your signed lease until it has been approved by the area rent office. The executed lease must be filed with and approved by the area rent office before it can go into effect. The area rent office will check:

The area rent office will not approve a lease which increases the rent and decreases the services to which you have been entitled. You should make sure that your lease provides for at least the same services. Be sure that agreement to provide the same services is written into the lease. Otherwise it may take considerable time and negotiation before services are returned. Do not depend on oral promises.

5. If the lease does not contain an escalator clause which provides for a further rent increase after December 31, 1948.

If you decide to sign a lease for an increase up to 15 percent over your present maximum, the lease must extend through December 31, 1948. It may be for a longer period. But no lease will be approved by the area rent office if it requires an additional increase after December 31, 1948.

6. If the lease does not give the landlord the right to terminate it before its expiration date.

The lease may give the tenant the option to terminate it before it expires. But the lease cannot give such an option to the landlord.

Every one of these six conditions must be met if the lease is to be approved by the area rent office. If any of them are violated you are not obligated to pay an increase even if you have signed a new lease. But, remember . . . the new law does not require you to pay an increase. It must be a voluntary agreement between you and the landlord. If you do sign a lease providing for an increase up to 15 percent, the area rent office if it requires an additional increase after December 31, 1948.

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Eviction of Tenants

Under the federal law, the landlord who wants to get you out of the dwelling, is still required to go to court and prove that he has grounds for eviction. However, he is no longer required to apply to the rent office for approval of an eviction action. You must rely on the local courts for protection. As long as your rent is paid, the landlord cannot evict you except for eviction.

1. If the tenant violates the obligations of his tenancy under a local eviction law, so long as the provisions of the local eviction law are not in conflict with the federal law.

The landlord cannot evict you for refusing to sign a lease calling for an increase up to 15 percent. Because you have signed a lease for more than 15 percent increase or one which gives the landlord the right to terminate the lease, you cannot be evicted. Such leases are prohibited by the federal law, regardless of the provisions of local law.

2. If the tenant is committing a nuisance on the premises, or is using them for immoral or illegal purposes, or for other than a bona fide living space.

Your local law says what actions are legally considered as "nuisances" in your community. If your landlord tries to evict you on these charges, he must go to court and prove them.

3. If the landlord, in good faith, wants to occupy the premises immediately for his own use as housing accommodations.

The landlord cannot evict you in order to have his relatives move into the unit. Neither can he evict you to convert your unit into commercial use. He and his relatives family must fully intend to live in the dwelling.

4. If the landlord, in good faith, has contracted, in writing, to sell the premises to a purchaser for his immediate use as housing accommodations.

Just your landlord's statement that he has sold the dwelling is not enough. It must be in writing, and the purchaser must intend to use it for housing, not as a store or office.

5. If the landlord, in good faith, is going to remodel or alter the premises substantially.

You can be evicted for remodeling or altering only if:

a. the alterations are necessary to protect and maintain the housing accommodations, and

b. these alterations cannot be made with the tenants living on the premises, and

c. the landlord has complied with all local and federal laws for making such alterations.

Your landlord cannot evict you to remodel or alter your dwelling for commercial use.

6. If the landlord seeks in good faith to recover possession of your dwelling for the purpose of demolishing it or removing it from housing use.

You have no protection against eviction in this case, regardless of the kind of new building he will construct. If you are living in housing or a commercial building, the only restriction on the landlord is that he comply with all local and federal laws for such new construction.

7. If your premises are the spare room or some other portion of the landlord's own home, which is not suitable for housekeeping use.

If you are living in furnished, non-housekeeping accommodation in a single dwelling occupied by your landlord and the building is not used as a rooming or boarding house, you can be evicted if he wishes to evict you.

Recovery of Damages by Tenants

If your landlord charges you more than you are legally bound to pay for rent, you can bring suit against him in any state or federal court within one year of the violation of the law. If your landlord reduces your services, regardless of whether or not you have signed a lease for increased rent, this is considered as raising your rent, and you can bring court action against him for this.

In the case of a clear violation, you can sue the landlord for triple damages and court costs. You can also go to the area rent office and ask that it get a court order compelling the landlord to pay back the overcharges or restore the services to which you are entitled.

Housing Removed from Rent Control

Certain types of housing accommodations are no longer controlled under the new federal law. But rent control is removed from such housing only when the landlord files a special form with the area rent office proving that his accommodations are eligible for removal from control. The units are not automatically decontrolled. The types of housing from which rent control is removed include:

Buy Union Products Says Labor Official

Washington, D. C.—John P. Burke, president, Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, urged promotion of a drive for the purchase of union-made goods by consumers.

Excerpts from Burke's statement, released by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department, follow:

"We are launching a drive for the purchase of union-made goods, let us start a counter-offensive against the Congressmen and Senators who are trying to enact anti-union slop legislation.

"If the more than seven million members of the American Federation of Labor, their families and their friends would make a solemn resolve to buy union-made goods only—and stick to this resolve—we could laugh at the efforts of some of the legislators and Congressmen who pass anti-union legislation.

"It is consumers who furnish the markets for the products of American industry. When we spend our union wages we should spend it for products made by union men and women. Not a single penny earned in a union shop should be spent for the purchase of products made in non-union shops."

AFL GROUP WINS ELECTION AT DRYDEN RUBBER CO.

Springfield, Ill.—Employes at the Dryden Rubber Company plant here voted for the AFL as collective bargaining agent in the NLRB election. The ballot gave the AFL 55 votes against 54 for the CIO.

The election was the first conducted here since enactment of the Taft-Hartley law.

A stiff campaign by AFL organizers eliminated the CIO affiliate from the picture just a few months after its entrance. The successful AFL battle will bring the Dryden Rubber Company plant under AFL contract. An agreement is now being negotiated between the AFL and the company's plant in Keokuk, Iowa.

KEEN JOHNSON RESIGNS FROM LABOR DEPT. POST

Washington, D. C.—Keen Johnson, Undersecretary of Labor, resigned from Government service.

He said in a letter to President Truman that he was returning to private industry.

Johnson, a vice-president of Reynolds Metals Company, served with the Labor Department while on a year's leave of absence from the Reynolds Company.

In reply, Mr. Truman said he was "indeed sorry that we are going to lose your services." He added that "the Government is indebted to you—as I am personally."

The exchange of letters was made public by the White House.

COST OF LIVING IS TOPIC FOR AFL RADIO PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—The question, "What Can Be Done About Living Be Reduced?" will be discussed on the AFL weekly series of radio broadcasts over the nation-wide network of the American Broadcasting Co.

Participants in the discussion will include Daniel E. Hutchings, president, Office Employes International Union; Paul Hall, president, secretary-treasurer, United Textile Workers of America; and Philip Pearl, AFL Publicity Director.

The program originates in Washington and is broadcast at 6:45 p.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time. Local papers should be consulted for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.

Boiler Makers Hold Educational Parley

Chicago.—President Charles J. MacGowan presided at the "educational and organizational" conference of the Boiler Makers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers of America here.

Nearly 750 delegates from the Boilermakers Local Lodges in Canada and United States gathered to discuss problems affecting the union.

Dr. William M. Leiserson, labor relations adviser to the Chicago Board, general counsel for the Boiler Makers, analyzed the Taft-Hartley law, and explained how to avoid it when conducting the union's business under it.

Following the general meeting the delegates to the conference split up into small groups to discuss matters related to the various branches of industry in which the union has representation. These include the railroads, coal mines, barges, shipyards and construction activities.

FIGHT PRICES AND ENEMIES SAYS AUTO WORKERS BOARD

Milwaukee, Wis.—The Executive Board of the CIO United Automobile Workers closed its session here by directing the fight for higher wages, high prices and to work for the defeat of all Congressmen who have demonstrated their "unfriendly attitudes toward labor."

The board recommended that all UAW locals participate in every way possible with consumer cooperative groups which have already set up or form co-ops where they do not exist.

Another board resolution calls for vigorous campaigns by local groups for the defeat of Congressmen who voted for the Taft-Hartley measure.

Meany Says No Labor Retreat Reiterates Plan To Fight Law

AFL's United Textile Workers Smash CIO Raids in Five New England Mills

Challenges Employers Who Seek to Destroy Trade Unions

Lawrence, Mass.—The strenuous efforts of the CIO to take control of 5 New England mills under contract with the AFL's United Textile Workers were foiled by a vote of over 2 to 1 in favor of the AFL affiliate.

About 10,000 workers participated in 5 elections at the Hudson Worsted Company, Hudson, Mass.; Shawsheen Mill of the American Woolen Company, Lawrence, Mass.; the Arlington Mill of William Iselin & Company, the Vassalboro Mill of the American Woolen Company, North Vassalboro, Maine, and the Brown-Mayo Unit of the American Woolen Company, at Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.

At the Arlington Mill, the largest of the 5 plants, the UTW vote ran more than 3 to 1 against the CIO, and at the Hudson plant it was as high as 3 to 1. The UTW now represents the grand total of about 12,000 textile mill workers in the Greater Lawrence, Mass., area.

The elections resulted from CIO raiding of plants under contract with the UTW and the CIO's petition to the National Labor Relations Board for elections at the plants. During this year, CIO raiding expeditions against the UTW have resulted in 11 CIO defeats.

Observers noted 2 important sidelights on these elections. The first, the virtually non-existent "no-union" vote in the various mills, less than 2 percent of the grand total of votes cast. Secondly, in the Lawrence elections the workers at the Wood & Ayer Mill, which was CIO-controlled, were very enthusiastic about the UTW victory. When the victory parade passed these mills the workers ran to the windows and shouted "Hurrah, AFL!"

Green Calls Marshall Plan 'Wise and Simple' Measure

Washington, D. C.—In an editorial appearing in this month's American Federationist, William Green, AFL president, asserts that the Marshall plan for European recovery is the most practical and simple way of enabling European nations to cope with their own problems."

"The proposal is simple," Green declares. "It would bring the nations together and share resources in order that all might have security and make progress," Mr. Green declared.

The AFL chief pointed out the Marshall plan has thus far served to emphasize the gap between democratic countries and those under totalitarian regimes. He criticized Russia for her refusal to cooperate. He said:

"The U. S. S. R. refused to cooperate or to permit the nations she controls to cooperate. She has followed a policy of isolating and those unwilling to work together under democratic leadership. The world desperately needs peace, but it can have peace only when all are willing to place common welfare above special interests. The United States and the United Kingdom and the rest of the U. S. S. R. stand out with unmistakable clarity and it is well that wage-earners and all other citizens understand the facts clearly.

"All democratic nations are willing to respect the right of any people to have a totalitarian state if they wish. We believe such a decision is ill-advised—but a decision which a nation has a right to make. However, no nation has any right to impose this or any other form of government upon another nation.

"After the Communist Party got control of the Russian government, it set up the Comintern, an committee responsible for converting other countries to communism. During the recent war the Comintern was officially abolished, but its members were assigned to various countries to direct Communist secret agents and the Communist Party members in the various countries.

"Those who value democratic institutions, including free enterprise, have responsibility for knowing how to maintain and improve this free way of life. We must not only conserve our institutions at home but we must do our share in convincing the peoples of other countries of their value and basic importance. If we would retain democracy, we must prepare ourselves to persuade others to share it."

Article Says Swedish Experience Key To Solution of Our Economic Problems

New York City.—Sweden is a land which has solved some of the problems now torturing our national economy and which can be a guide to guidance and experience.

This is the view expressed by Arnold S. Zander, president of the American Federation of States, County and Municipal Employees in an article which is a part of a series of articles on the general topic "Sweden: Laboratory in Economic Democracy." The articles were prepared for the Workers Education Bureau of America and are being published by that organization.

"The U. S. A. is heading for trouble," Mr. Zander says. "I dare to ask what, if anything, is being done to avoid the recession that is sure to come, or to lessen the severity of sufficient consequence to give us a more satisfactory sense of security. It seems to some of us that we not only are not taking positive steps to meet such a major recession, but that Congress is determined to be as reactionary as possible."

Mr. Zander, the right kind of political action to elect socially minded men to Congress, for the development of a system of workers' education, for cooperation upon the part of some aspects of the trade union and cooperative movements. He then points to Sweden as the nation which has met the same problems and has solved them satisfactorily. He says:

"Although we recognize the necessity for undertaking these tasks we should probably feel a little more sure of success if we looked at some other land similar steps were once taken by the workers of that country themselves. If we knew that, in some distant laboratory, problems which beset us have been solved, it would be comforting.

"Such a land and such a laboratory is Sweden.

"Briefly, the Swedish program is the adoption of a series of measures of-the-road government and economy. They want to avoid dictatorship from either the right or the left. One dictator in this country, Mr. Zander says, is an anti-communist campaign. He could see this because they have secured themselves against fascism. To avoid communism, they wanted labor stability; they must be able to avoid economic ups and downs. To do that they must have the maximum degree of employment. That requires planning for full employment and the assurance of comparatively high level of purchasing power in the hands of the consumers.

"They have extensive plans for employment, and strong labor and cooperative movements to distribute and maintain mass buying power. The elements of the program are most interesting and I shall try to tell something about them in future articles."

FEWER STRIKES IN JUNE REPORTED BY LABOR DEPT.

Washington, D. C.—The number of strikes decreased in June for the third consecutive month, according to the Labor Department.

The report said there were 2,170 strikes in 1,475,000 workers during the month. The tie-ups cost 2,750,000 man-days of idleness, 3.5 percent of .5 of 1 percent of available working time.

The Conciliation Service said that incomplete figures indicate that strike idleness in July was "about the same."

The Labor Department also stated that there were 2,175 strikes in the first half of 1947, 165 fewer than for the first half of 1946. However, this year's strikes involved fewer workers and cost only .5 of 1 percent days of idleness. The 2,325 strikes in the first half of 1946 caused 2.4 percent man-days of idleness.

NEW CALIF. WAGE ORDERS SET 65-CENT MINIMUM

Washington, D. C.—The State of California revised its 10 industry wage orders, each of them setting an hourly minimum of 65 cents and each containing provisions relating to working conditions, safety, sanitation, etc., according to a report issued by the U. S. Department of Labor in June.

The Labor Department's Division, lately effectiveness of these orders, the California Industrial Welfare Commission's Field Service reports that the new orders are in force.

WOMEN IN LABOR FORCE UP

Washington, D. C.—The number of women in the labor force increased over 1,000,000 between May and June, according to a report issued by the Labor Department.

The woman labor force totaled 18,150,000, the highest level reached since the end of June 1945.

HIRING DOWN, LAYOFFS UP IN MAY FOR MANUFACTURING

Washington, D. C.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that hiring rates in manufacturing industries decreased during May while layoff rates increased. Voluntary quits declined in the same period.

The hiring rate fell from 51 to 47 for every 1,000 employes on the payroll, the lowest figure for any May since 1940. Layoffs rose from 10 to 15 per 1,000 employes with the acceleration felt most sharply in the iron and steel, electrical, nonelectrical, and radio equipment industries.

Hiring rates for women in all manufacturing industries declined more sharply than for men.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

LABOR DAY SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1947

GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

Nation Achieves 'Full' Employment; Lag In Real Wages Is Deterring Factor

Labor Day celebrations this year will see more American workers employing the holiday than ever before in the Nation's history.

Slightly over 60 million wage earners have jobs in private industry, a record-breaking figure once believed impossible.

Thus, our free enterprise economy has achieved the "full" employment goal. The much predicted unemployment wave which was to accompany the reconversion of industry to peacetime pursuits has failed to materialize. American workers are enjoying the highest standard of living in the world.

Trade union members can take pride in this accomplishment for they have done their share to boost our economy to its currently prosperous heights. A realistic attitude, however, demands a sober appraisement of the likelihood of maintaining the record level of employment and income in the months and years to come.

President Truman, in his midyear economic report, sounded a word of caution against over enthusiasm. He said, "The unprecedented prosperity of our Nation must not be a cause for idle self-congratulation."

The President pointed out that the high level of business activity is supported by "temporary props," the removal or weakening of which may have serious implications for our economy. He listed increased exports, the reconversion demands of industries, the abnormally heavy consumer demand, and the use of savings and credit as the factors now sustaining the present boom.

To place our economy on a firmer foundation will require basic adjustments, Mr. Truman declared. He called for a downward revision of prices accompanied by increased wages wherever they have lagged behind the increase in the cost of living.

"The whole question of maintaining 'full' employment in the months to come is analyzed in the August issue of the AFL's "Labor's Monthly Survey."

The survey points out that under "full" employment conditions and with the expected increase in worker productivity the gross product is continually expanding. All of this production must be taken off the market as it is produced if "full" employment is to continue.

Going to the heart of the problem, the AFL report declares that with exports commencing to drop, and with the gradually diminishing business and government expenditures, an expansion of consumer buying is required to uphold the record business level.

The article states: "The key question in the months ahead is this: Will prices come down so that consumer buying can expand? Can consumers increase their buying enough to save a million jobs? If the full increase of increased product is not bought, more than a million jobs will probably be lost."

The prospects for affirmative answers to these questions are bright when the situation with respect to workers' real wages is examined. The Survey declares:

"Since labor factory wages have not kept pace with rising prices since the end of the war, the average man, in the weekly pay envelope in June, 1947, had 9 percent more to buy, but 30 percent higher than in 1939. Most factory workers fared better than the average, but the striking fact remains that the gains in the exceptionally large wage increases of the last year have left the average worker's real income has not risen. Nothing could be more clearly to the need for consumer organization to combat rising prices."

Chicago Labor Day Rally Set; Green's Talk On Radio Network

Chicago.—Approximately 100,000 persons are expected to jam Soldier Field here for the greatest Labor Day celebration in the city's history.

Final plans for the gala event which will start at 1:30 p.m. were announced by William L. Lee, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor which is sponsoring the celebration. The Federation embraces 375 local unions with a combined membership in excess of 400,000.

Principal speaker of the afternoon will be William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor. Governor Dwight H. Green of Illinois and Chicago's Mayor Martin H. Kennelly have also been invited to attend.

Mr. Green's address will be carried over a nation-wide radio network. The exact time of the broadcast will be announced at a later date.

An elaborate and varied program of free entertainment has been arranged including two circus acts, midget auto races and parades by local posts of various veterans' organizations and fraternal societies. Radio, screen, and stage stars are expected to appear on the grand stand. Music will be furnished by a 60-piece American Legion band and by one of the best of America's "name" bands.

Not only are the tickets free, but some of the lucky one will receive a brand new 4-door sedan as door prize provided that he is present at the rally.

For Labor Day Editions:

Gov. Dewey Salutes Labor's Progress; Says Gains Improve Public's Welfare

By THOMAS E. DEWEY
Governor of New York

"Our state and our country have come a long way since a small minority of workers established the first Labor Day. The intervening time has been a period of progress hard to compare in the history of industrialism.

"The pioneers of unionism faced misunderstanding, indifference, even violent hostility. Many people will receive can remember how the earliest Labor Day processions sometimes marched through sparse lines of jeering spectators.

"It took determination and physical as well as moral courage to join the struggle for fair treatment of the men who work for wages. On the side they had not only their courage but the conviction that they were right.

"Today the people of New York realize that they were right. A great many of us have forgotten that there was ever any argument about it. We take labor unions for granted, in fact we cannot imagine our state without our well conducted organizations of men and women banded together for collective bargaining. Labor Day in the year 1947 is a festival in which the entire population of our state joins to acknowledge and support the established, undisputed position of organized labor in our social as well as our industrial fabric.

"The spirit with which we share in this celebration testifies to the fact that social progress of New York has been spasmodic and parallel with the progress of the cause of unionism in our midst. As the living and working conditions of the workers improved the conditions throughout the state improved.

"September 1, 1947, therefore, should be an occasion for not only the direct beneficiaries but also the rest of us, the indirect beneficiaries of unionism, to pay tribute to the devoted bygone pioneers who spearheaded the movement in the days of storm and stress.

"It is also an occasion to pay tribute to labor's record of cooperation in the war effort. Our freedom which we enjoy today would have been shattered if the labor leaders and members had not realized that free unions can exist only in a free society.

"Our state has been exceptionally fortunate in the stability of its industry and the understanding of its labor leadership. We owe to these much of the unprecedented prosperity and well-being of our state, its record rate of employment and high wages, its harmonious industrial relations and the whole network of progressive legislation which insures to those who toil the highest degree of protection against the hazards of social and economic insecurity.

"As governor and as Governor, I am happy to send warm greetings to the leaders of labor organizations throughout the state, and I urge the people of New York to join in the celebration of this anniversary of labor's progress."

AFL TEAMSTERS RATIFY 17½-CENT WAGE INCREASE

Pittsburgh.—More than 2,000 AFL teamsters here voted to accept a compromise agreement providing for a wage increase of 17½ cents an hour. Members of Local 249 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters approved the agreement by a 4 to 3 vote.

The union had asked a 20-cent increase and the Western Pennsylvania Motor Carriers Association countered with an offer of 15 cents. Negotiators settled the wage issue and other controversial issued leading to the adoption of the compromise agreement.

Slogan For Coming Year!

Labor mass meetings such as the one picured above in New York will spark the campaign of 1948 to wipe Taft-Hartley Act off the statute books.

THE HISTORY OF LABOR DAY

Labor Day rightfully belongs to American workers who toil diligently and labor day to contribute their share to the greatness of this Nation.

Long before Labor Day became a legal public holiday it was celebrated by workers as a day of festive gaiety and rest from their daily tasks. It was the creation of labor, not of politicians. It was the brainchild of a union carpenter 12 years before Labor Day was proclaimed a national holiday by Act of Congress.

Peter J. McGuire, a native of New York City who joined the ranks of America's toilers while still a child, was the father of the observance in honor of the country's working people.

In May of 1882, he stood before the newly organized Central Labor Union of New York City and proposed that one day of the year be set aside as a general holiday for the working masses.

McGuire suggested that the holiday be known as Labor Day and that it be set for the first Monday in September, which would put it halfway between two national holidays—the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving.

Other delegates to the meeting enthusiastically embraced the idea. A committee was named and soon preparations were underway for the initial celebration of Labor Day.

Approximately two years after this first Labor Day, the 26 delegates to the fourth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor held in Chicago adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the first Monday in September of each year be set apart as a laborers' national holiday, and that we recommend the observance by all wage workers, irrespective of sex, calling or nationality."

During the next few years organized labor directed its attention to securing state legislation making Labor Day a legal holiday. As early as 1887, Oregon enacted the first State law, but this measure designated the first Saturday in June as Labor Day. This was changed to the first Monday in September in 1893. Ultimately, 30 States proclaimed Labor Day a legal holiday.

The Labor Committee of the House of Representatives in May of 1894 submitted a favorable report on a bill making Labor Day a legal public holiday.

By June 26 of that year Congressional action on the bill had been born but not realized that free unions can exist only in a free society.

"Our state has been exceptionally fortunate in the stability of its industry and the understanding of its labor leadership. We owe to these much of the unprecedented prosperity and well-being of our state, its record rate of employment and high wages, its harmonious industrial relations and the whole network of progressive legislation which insures to those who toil the highest degree of protection against the hazards of social and economic insecurity.

"As governor and as Governor, I am happy to send warm greetings to the leaders of labor organizations throughout the state, and I urge the people of New York to join in the celebration of this anniversary of labor's progress."

APPRENTICESHIP RECORD SET IN BUILDING TRADES

Washington, D. C.—The number of apprentices employed during June in the construction industry increased slightly, according to a report issued by the Labor Department. The June figure of 100,943 apprentices represents an all-time high for the industry.

The industry total is broken down as follows: Woodworking trades 37,020; trowel trades, 13,106; electrical trades, 10,746; pipe trades, 10,332; painting trades, 8,202; sheet metal trades, 7,260; and other trades 4,140.

TEAMSTERS TO PRESENT AFL'S RADIO PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—The AFL's radio program for August 16th has been turned over to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters which will present a report on the annual convention held in San Francisco.

Important officials of the union will discuss matters relative to the convention and general problems confronting labor today.

The program will originate from San Francisco and will be broadcast over the nation-wide network of the American Broadcasting Co. at 9:45 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time. Local papers should be consulted for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.

CONN. AFL CONVENTION BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2

Stamford, Conn.—The Connecticut State Federation of Labor announced its annual convention will be held here on September 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Note to Editors

It was impossible to include in this edition a Labor Day message from George Meany, AFL Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Meany's statement will appear in the issue of the forthcoming issues of the news service.

Additional material pertinent to Labor Day will be included in later editions as it becomes available.

Note to Editors

The American Federationist advertises the availability for Labor Day issues of any articles appearing in the June, July or August numbers of the A. F. of L.'s official monthly. Specific permission to reprint material from these three issues need not be requested. However, any article picked up by Federationist should carry a credit line.

The above authorization is limited to the publication of editorial and international unions and to labor weeklies published or formally approved by Central Labor Unions in the various localities.

AFL'S IRON ORE MINERS WHIP CIO IN ELECTION

Clifton, N. Y.—The AFL's iron ore miners whipped the CIO's United Steel Workers in an NLRB election conducted here to determine bargaining agent for employes of the Hanna Coal and Ore Corporation.

The AFL union polled 70 votes in its favor against 43 for the CIO affiliate.

LABOR DAY, 1947

By WILLIAM GREEN
President of the American Federation of Labor

This year Labor Day finds the nation's workers existing under the ominous shadow of the most oppressive anti-labor law ever enacted by Congress.

There can be no real hope of future progress and the enjoyment of the free, American way of life for the wage-earners of our country while the Taft-Hartley Act remains on the statute books.

As yet, the full impact of this reactionary law has not been felt by labor, but as time goes on its provisions will stifle the growth of organized labor, weaken the trade union movement in our land and make it increasingly difficult for American working men and women to keep their heads above water.

The American Federation of Labor does not intend to submit to such oppressive and repressive conditions.

On this Labor Day, I call upon every member of our organization to join in an unrelenting campaign for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

As true Americans, the members of the American Federation of Labor will rally to meet this challenge. We are determined not to let our freedoms be throttled. We are ready to fight with every legitimate weapon at our command to protect our right to improve working and living conditions for ourselves and our fellow workers. We will not willingly or supinely permit the forces of reaction to capture control of our country.

Let me make this clear. The American Federation of Labor has just begun to fight. We will use our economic strength to the fullest extent to protect the rights of our members in contract negotiations with employers in the face of this slave labor law.

WILLIAM GREEN

But we will use every advantage of every opportunity to challenge the legality of the slave labor law in the courts.

But even such measures are not enough. In the coming year, labor must exert its political strength as never before. We must unite to defeat for reelection every member of Congress who voted for this obnoxious and fascist law. We must unite in electing to our national and State law-making bodies candidates who are truly representative of the will of the people and will not succumb to pressure by the Taft-Hartley Act's reactionary supporters during the 80th Congress.

Only in America can we bring about the prompt repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act. Only in this way can we succeed in the enactment of social justice legislation which is so acutely needed by the American people, like health insurance, an adequate housing program and a minimum wage measuring up to the standards of health and decency.

Today full employment has become a reality in America. The goal of sixty million jobs has been reached. But this surface prosperity is based upon a number of temporary factors, such as the huge export demand and consumer short-age buying. The time is now here to build for permanent prosperity in America, a prosperity shaded by all of our people, a prosperity which will eliminate poverty and needless human suffering.

We must unite in this great endeavor. It requires the fullest cooperation between free labor and free management, with Government intervention limited to the establishment of minimum standards which will assure decent homes, decent wage floors and decent health conditions for the American people.

In fighting for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, labor is striving for the attainment of these goals.

New Political Song on Trial At Labor Day Celebrations

AFL Labor Day rallies throughout the country have been chosen for the introduction of a new song written by Jack Lawrence, writer of popular hit tunes.

Entitled "Vote a Heart, Taft-Hartley, Have a Heart," the song is aimed at the foes of the labor movement who foisted the Taft-Hartley law upon the nation's workers.

Mr. Lawrence, a member of the American Federation of Musicians and the American Federation of Radio Artists, was incensed at the injustices contained in the labor-regulating measure that he turned his talents to work in his favorite medium, song writing.

Turning from love to politics has not spoiled the quality of Mr. Lawrence's work, according to reports received about the song. It is a rollicking political jingle which, if it catches on, should prove to be embarrassing to labor's enemies in Congress. This is especially true with an election to perform the end of 1948.

The following excerpt is a sample of the style of the song:

"I'm going to join Labor-Baiting, try an' get rich
'Cause you're dealin' with a democratic folk—
Vote a heart, Taft-Hartley, have a heart
But when Labor starts a-votin'
Then your Labor Day's through
Politics! Politics!
I don't like it when they use dirty tricks—!"

Mr. Lawrence is well known to the devotees of the products of Tin Pan Alley. Each year he manages to turn out one or more of the hit tunes. He is best remembered for songs such as "Tangerine," "All Or Nothing at All, If I Didn't Care, Sleepy Lagoon.

A skylight in the Lawrence home was the song is the story of Mr. Lawrence's difficulty in obtaining the services of a music publisher. When told of the subject matter of the song, the heads of Tin Pan Alley were not interested. The same was found to be true with the recording companies and radio stations. Apparently, they knew which interests will support them, and so they turned down a song of material which presented labor's side of the story.

After much delay Mr. Lawrence arranged with Mercury Records for a recording of the song performed by the Prairie Ramblers. The record is set for release about the 15th of August.

The Prairie Ramblers will introduce the song to the assembled Labor Day crowds which gather at Soldier Field in Chicago for the rally sponsored by the Chicago Federation of Labor. The Ramblers, however, will be unable to perform the song over their home station WLS in Chicago which has banned its use.

(* Reprinted by special permission of Whale Music Corp., N.Y.C.)

Labor Movement In Ecuador Saved By Timely AFL Action

Washington, D. C.—A sharp protest by the American Federation of Labor against a measure passed by the national congress in Ecuador saved the labor movement in that South American country from disaster.

This was attested to by Gonzalo Maldonado Jarrin, president of the Confederation of Labor of Ecuador. En route home from the International Labor Conference in Geneva, the South American labor leader called upon AFL President William Green to express his appreciation for the support rendered by organization by the AFL.

He referred specifically to a telegram sent by Mr. Green to the President of Ecuador protesting against an act which would have banned the dissolution of the labor movement there. Mr. Jarrin explained that the action was a violation of the trade union rights guaranteed in Ecuador's Constitution.

The AFL's forceful protest prevented final enactment of the vicious measure. Mr. Jarrin said, and influenced the government of Ecuador to liberate the labor leaders who had been imprisoned or exiled because of their support of the labor movement.

President Maldonado Jarrin was elected in office last fall after long and stormy battles with the Communist element which had controlled the Confederation of Labor. His election was a stunning victory for the democratic forces over the freedom-killing influence of the hostile Communist group.